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To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As both a consumer and an IT Professional I have been against the antitrust action against Microsoft from the beginning. In the years that I have been using Microsoft operating systems, startting with MS-DOS 1.1, I have seen the cost of the software come down while the functionality has been greatly enhanced. There is another important consideration as well: standardization. Had I chosen to write this using MS-Word and send it to you as an attachment there is an 86% chance that you would be able to merely open it and read it. This was not the case 10 years ago, and it is because of Microsoft's clout in the industry that this wonderful standardization has taken place.

As a consumer, and as an IT Professional, I have alternative choices in the operating system and application software that I use and/or deploy and I have, in some cases, chosen the alternatives. For the most part, the Microsoft solutions are the best value. The antitrust action against Microsoft is not, in my opinion, in the interest of the consumer, is not in the interest of business in general, and is not in the interest of the computer industry. Perhaps from a standpoint of technical merit Microsoft is guilty, but if you consider the original purpose of existing antitrust laws I do not believe in Microsoft's guilt.

I believe that the role of the DOJ should be to insure that competition remains, but in doing so Microsoft should remain intact and it's histroy of innovation should not be constrained in any manner.

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